

Basin briefings

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Copper Basin Mining District

April 2001

Group announces cooperative approach to inform and involve community

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc. (GSH), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have formed a Community Involvement Partnership (partnership). Partnership members believe that a cooperative communication approach will best serve the informational needs of area citizens.

Throughout the investigation and cleanup activities at the Copper Basin Mining District site, the partnership's top priorities will be to reach out to all community members, to listen and respond to your questions, solicit your participation, and provide you with information. This newsletter is the first in a series of newsletters that the partnership will publish to help keep community members informed of site investigation and cleanup activities.

Partnership approach mirrors Memorandum of Understanding

Partnership members signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and other agreements in January 2001. The agreements established responsibilities for the first phase of investigating and cleaning up various areas affected by past activities in the Copper Basin Mining District (a box on the back of this newsletter summarizes each partnership member's responsibilities under these agreements). In signing the MOU, the parties also committed to work cooperatively and coordinate efforts to address site issues and reach out to the community.

Partnership members will seek community input

Partnership members would like to meet with community members interested in discussing site issues. The partnership wants to know the best methods of communicating with you - both giving information and getting feedback - during site activities.

With this input, the partnership will develop a comprehensive community involvement plan. The plan will identify ways to keep the community informed and offer opportunities for public involvement and input during the site investigation and cleanup process at the Copper Basin site.

Community interviews coming up

Partnership representatives will conduct a series of interviews or informal meetings with local officials, community members, and other interested parties to learn about the issues and questions people may have about the Copper Basin site. Please contact any of the partnership members listed in this newsletter under Contact Information if you would like to give input or need more information on Copper Basin site activities. Partnership representatives will also be calling citizens in the near future to seek your input, including your interest in participating in community interviews about the Copper Basin site.

This newsletter is prepared and distributed jointly by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc., and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as members of a Community Involvement Partnership for the Copper Basin Mining District site. The mission of the Community Involvement Partnership is to provide consistent, accurate, and timely information, and to listen and respond to concerns from citizens.

Agreements spell out responsibilities for site work

A Memorandum of Understanding and four legal agreements were signed in January 2001. These agreements assign the following responsibilities to partnership members (GSH, TDEC, and EPA) for different aspects of the Copper Basin Mining District site:

Lower North Potato Creek and South Mine Pit:

- " GSH will conduct an investigation and study of the Lower North Potato Creek from the point where the creek enters the Ocoee River to a location upstream of the South Mine Pit. From these investigations, interim treatment alternatives for the creek will be developed and evaluated. EPA will then select a way to treat the water of Lower North Potato Creek on a temporary basis until an overall plan to protect water quality can be implemented.
- " GSH will investigate and clean up the Lower North Potato Creek area, including reducing or eliminating the physical hazards from abandoned mining facilities near the creek, as part of long-term watershed reclamation. TDEC will be the lead government agency overseeing GSH's work.

Cantrell Flats Wastewater Treatment Plant on Davis Mill Creek:

- " GSH will either fund or perform the refurbishing, operation, and maintenance of the Cantrell Flats Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide for temporary treatment of water in Davis Mill Creek. This temporary treatment will be used for as long as necessary to protect water quality. Water from Gypsum Pond and Belltown Creek will be diverted to the Ocoee River.

Davis Mill Creek Watershed Area:

- " EPA will conduct a detailed investigation and identify ways to clean up the Davis Mill Creek watershed area, with partial funding by GSH.

Ocoee River:

- " EPA will conduct a detailed investigation and identify ways to clean up the Ocoee River. GSH is not participating in this study.

Copper Basin Area:

- " In a recent agreement with TDEC, GSH also agreed to provide some funding for planting hardwood trees and other vegetation in the Copper Basin area.

Funding will be available for a qualified community group

GSH has agreed to provide funding for a Technical Assistance Program grant. The grant will be awarded to a qualified non-profit community group. The purpose of the grant is to obtain independent technical expertise to assist the community in understanding and participating in the technical aspects of the investigation and cleanup process. Details of the program and information on how and when to apply for the grant will be publicized in the near future.

Contact Information

For more information or to request an individual or group meeting, please contact any of the following partnership representatives:

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